

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
February 6, 2008
Conference Call

Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas
Dave Graham
Patrick Zimmerer
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters

Excused: John Etchepare

Absent: Jim Bennage
John Hansen
Ryan Lance
Dr. Frank Galey

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson

Approval of Minutes

Juan made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16 conference call. Jim Mickelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Drought Task Force Update

Leanne said that in general, the group felt they should meet two times a year and each committee will present a written report. The Task Force has met its objectives to date and climate change or impact is a possible change to the group's direction. They are hoping to be the central point for sharing of information to avoid overlaps. John and Bill Crapser are writing a letter to the Governor with recommendations for the future of the Task Force.

Gene asked what Lawson and Grey are reporting on the snow pack and water for this year. Leanne said the reservoirs are very low at this point and it doesn't look like there will be any recovery this year, the last 8 years of the 30-year average has shifted it by 20%.

Wolf Meeting Update

Joe reported the WSGA pre-meeting was to inform producers of what the legislation will be impacting them. He said Game and Fish walked them thru the plan step-by step. Joe felt there wasn't really anything into plan that he can't live with.

Joe said the compensation will be 7 to 1 within the boundary. The plan also says that if a producer sees the wolf harassing the cattle, they can shoot the wolf. He is questioning whether that will fly. The plan also says they have that ability to move the line at anytime. The state will be contracting with Fish and Wildlife Services for predator control. The Game and Fish Commission will make any future line decisions. Joe recommended the board write a letter to Commission recommending the plan be adopted. Jim Mickelson agreed with Joe that the plan is doable and we should live with it. Game and Fish is requesting 4.26 million and Montana got about 600,000 from the feds last year. The state is going to bear the brunt of the costs of having the wolf here. Joe thinks after the state takes over management of the wolf for a couple of year and all goes well, USFWS will probably back off dramatically.

ADMB Update

Gene said the group approved about \$158,000 for projects. He said there are some really good research projects being done. They are working on bear management including continuing education for people living in bear country.

Gene said John's recommendation at the ADMB meeting was not to push the loss of the \$300,000 reduction for fear of other changes being made in the budget if opened on the floor and the rest of the members agreed.

Muff will send copies of the Wolf management report out to members

WBC Update

Ted resigned and will be working with UW. Cindy is asking for help in finding good candidates to fill his position. The members said they would like to have that position expand markets to include more products than just embryos and seaman. Patrick asked if Jack wants the Board to change the WBC policy statements or the value-added position. Jack clarified he is looking for input of Ted Craig's position. Jack asked Patrick to respond to Cindy and let her know they appreciate being asked, and to let her know the board would like to expand the international trade.

Jack asked to see if Justin could address the Board at the February 26th meeting regarding an update from the Governors Conference on the Wyoming We Want.

The board reviewed and approved the draft agenda.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to adjourn. Joe Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date